

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HEARING ON "URANIUM CONTAMINATION IN THE NAVAJO NATION"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a copy of my opening statement delivered before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on October 23, 2007 on Uranium Contamination.

I want to thank and commend the Chairman for holding this hearing. Native Americans have borne a disproportionate burden of the toxic legacy from this country's pursuit of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. This is a topic that has been important to me for a long time. In this classic environmental justice story, we can see how long disadvantaged peoples have been burdened with inhumane levels of contamination. And we see how long it can take just to begin to undo the damage that such contamination brings.

The stories we will hear today will also make clear that quests for power—be they political or electrical—have no respect for life and exact an unacceptable cost to human health and the environment. The EPA guesses there are about 520 abandoned uranium mines in the Navajo nation and 1,200 abandoned mines in the area. The Navajo nation is home to 5 old uranium mills. Each of the mill sites and the mine sites represent a potential groundwater contamination site in addition to being sources of air and soil contamination.

There are many potential exposure routes. Children play in the water that accumulates in the radioactive tailing piles. Homes and hogans are built out of materials that are radioactive. Wind-blown dust from the tailings is inhaled. Groundwater is contaminated with uranium and its daughter products. Wildlife and plantlife concentrate the contamination and become food for other wildlife or for Navajo living off the land.

Uranium can be toxic in two ways. First, its properties as a chemical confer an ability to irreversibly destroy parts of the kidney when acting in isolation. But, like lead and mercury, it is a metal which interacts with uranium in the human body. Native Americans are known to experience disproportionately high levels of lead poisoning. And when uranium and lead both make their way into a person, the toxic effect on the kidney could be additive or even synergistic.

Uranium is also toxic because it naturally decays into other elements like radium, thorium and radon, each of which is also radioactive. Radon alone is the number two cause of lung cancer in the U.S. behind smoking.

The industrial process of extracting and concentrating uranium uses a host of other highly toxic compounds like various acids and cyanide, which are common mine tailing contaminants. And of course there are the other elements that co-occur with uranium like arsenic and fluoride which are left behind when the uranium is refined. Each of these compounds bears its own list of health effects. And each combination of two or three or more of these compounds brings their own set of health effects. It could take

generations just to completely understand the health effects of the contamination at all of these sites in question.

Making things worse, it is a formidable challenge just to understand the magnitude of the contamination—so much so, it hasn't even been done yet. No comprehensive review of groundwater contamination at all of the mine sites has been done. No comprehensive review for the presence of elevated levels of radiation in Navajo houses has been done even though dozens are known to have been built with radioactive materials. No comprehensive review of the health effects of the contamination from the mines and mills has been done. There is no way we can begin to address the problem if we can't define it.

One estimate I've heard is that the entire cleanup could cost around \$500 million. That seems unrealistically low. Efforts just to clean up the groundwater at three of the old mill sites on the Navajo nation are predicted to take 20 years. Already, the contamination has spanned generations and will span many more if we continue the current pace of cleanup.

Some effects can't be cleaned. Before the mines were opened, the Navajo way of life was heavily dependent on natural resources, which fostered a healthy respect for their environment. Not only did they rely on it for clean water and abundant food, but they incorporated it into their customs, their religion, and their way of life. Carol Markstrom and Perry Charley pointed out in their chapter of *The Navajo People and Uranium Mining*, that the contamination of livestock, of the medicinal herbs they used, and the water bodies their children played in, changed the view of the land. It was embraced and used as the conceptual center for their way of life. After the contamination, they feared it. It is hard to imagine how destabilizing it would be if we thought radioactive contamination permeated all that we rely on to be clean and safe.

Now, almost 60 years after the first uranium contamination began, there are corporations who want to reopen some of these very same mines and extract more uranium for nuclear power plants.

Never mind the contamination already created that we're still trying to define, let alone clean up. Never mind the permanent social damage inflicted by this contamination. Never mind that nuclear power is nowhere near economical. Never mind the lack of a viable and safe storage facility for the waste that will continue to be toxic for thousands of years.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses about plans for cleaning up the contamination in shortest possible timeframe. And I stand ready to do whatever I can to not only help this process along, but to make sure we don't do anymore damage by failing to learn our lessons from the past.

IN MEMORY OF FLAVE CARPENTER

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Flave Joseph Carpenter

Sr., formerly of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, who passed away October 15, 2007, at the age of 89.

Flave Carpenter spent his lifetime dedicated to his family, his community and his country. He was born in Clark County and his affinity for the region he called home can be measured by the enormous contributions he made to all the people and organizations he championed throughout his long life. He lived life to the fullest and would always say yes when he was called upon to help.

Flave Carpenter spent 28 years serving in the military, which encompassed tours in World War II and Korea where he was honored with multiple decorations including two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars and a Silver Star. Upon retirement, he returned to Arkadelphia where he took his enthusiasm for serving his country and shifted it into public service. Over the years, he gave everything he had to the city of Arkadelphia and Clark County by serving as the executive director of several local businesses and organizations. He was appointed by then-Governor Dale Bumpers to the Arkansas Parks and Recreation Commission and was later elected chairman of the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Directors. His passion for public service was rewarded in 1984 when then-Governor Bill Clinton inducted him into the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Hall of Fame. In 2002, he received the esteemed Lifetime Leadership in Economic Development recognition by the Arkansas Economic Developers.

In addition to his civic leadership, Flave Carpenter was also a man of devout faith. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where he served as deacon and elder. He also enjoyed the outdoors and the camaraderie that came with hunting, experiencing nature and the numerous recreational opportunities the State of Arkansas offered.

I send my deepest condolences to his three children, Diane McKenzie of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Jan Davis of Brazil, South America, and Flave Carpenter Jr., of Searcy; his sister Carolyn Jane Berry of Arkadelphia; and to his numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. Flave Carpenter will be greatly missed in Arkadelphia, Clark County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

THE FUTURE OF MEDICARE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a copy of my speech delivered at the summit on the future of Medicare on October 19, 2007.

Good afternoon. I want to thank each of you for coming to discuss one of the issues that reflects the values of this country—health insurance for retirees and the disabled. I want to especially thank the Senior

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Voice Coalition, a group of organizations and passionate individuals who are truly the grassroots leaders in organizing around issues affecting seniors in our community. Before I begin, please know that while there are many issues of importance, we will only be talking about Medicare at this summit today. If there are other issues on your mind, I would be happy to discuss them with you if there is time after.

Many of you recall that I held 13 town hall meetings in 2005 during the Social Security privatization debate. At these town halls, I presented detailed information on the reasons why I rejected the notion advocated by the President and some in Congress that there was a "crisis" in the solvency of the combined Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Trust Fund. We were told that to correct this manufactured crisis, the best solution was to privatize Social Security. Even if there was a "crisis," which did not actually exist, according to both the Social Security Administration and the Congressional Budget Office, the worst solution would be to drain the trust fund more quickly and therefore undermine the entire program.

Folks, we are on the verge of a very similar debate today with Medicare, our nation's other social insurance program. There is a symbiotic relationship between Social Security and Medicare. But unlike with Social Security, much of Medicare has already been privatized. Today I want to explore that with you by looking at two different Medicare programs that have been the cornerstones of efforts to privatize Medicare to see how they have performed. First, we'll look at the Medicare prescription drug plan, also known as "Part D," which leaves enrollees no choice but to go through the extraneous insurance companies. Second, Medicare Advantage shoe horns in the option to have private insurance industry middlemen to dole out health care according to what is profitable.

PART D

In 2003 came the single biggest Medicare privatization effort to date, the Medicare Modernization Act. It passed the House of Representatives only because the then-Majority party held open a 15 minute vote for over three hours in the middle of the night so they could strong-arm their way to a passing vote. Not only did it create an entirely private, chaotic prescription drug program, but it also dramatically increased subsidies to Medicare Advantage plans.

Several of us in Congress warned of what we were buying into with Part D. We warned against the forced inclusion of the unnecessary middleman—the insurance industry—and its likely effects on cost and access to meds. We warned about CMS' inability to negotiate drug prices like the VA does. We warned of a benefit that was far too complex. We warned of the now famous doughnut hole that left people without coverage for a period of time even though they were still paying premiums. We supported a bill that created a new prescription drug benefit that did away with all those problems by keeping the insurance industry out of the benefit and letting Medicare administer it.

As you know, we were not alone in our fight. At the time, the Center for Economic and Policy Research released a study showing that even if we took the modest step of allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, we would save so much money that we would be able to cover every single beneficiary with no co-payments, no deductibles, and no premiums . . . and still have \$40 billion dollars left.

Oversight and Government Reform Committee report on Part D.—I am sad to say that we were right. Just this Monday, the Committee on Oversight and Government

Reform released a study, which was requested by a handful of my colleagues and me, on the performance of Part D so far. It found three things. First, it confirmed the most obvious concern; that administrative costs are far higher than they should be. This was expected because of the forced inclusion of the insurance industry in the benefit. The insurers reported administrative expenses, sales costs, and profits of almost \$5 billion in 2007—including \$1 billion in profits alone. The administrative costs of the privatized Part D program are almost six times higher than the administrative costs of the traditional Medicare program.

The second finding was that the insurance industries were not doing a good job of negotiating with the pharmaceutical companies to lower prices. One of the main rallying cries of the Part D privatization effort was that the private insurers could be more effective negotiators than Medicare. Turns out to not be true. Now, instead of negotiating for lower prices, the insurers negotiate for rebates from the drug companies, which is what the Part D law calls for. The committee investigation found that drug price rebates negotiated by the insurers reduce Medicare drug spending by just 8.1 percent. In contrast, rebates in the Medicaid program reduce drug spending by 26 percent, over three times as much. Because of the difference in the size of the rebates, the transfer of low-income seniors from Medicaid drug coverage to Medicare drug coverage will result in a \$2.8 billion windfall for drug manufacturers in 2007. Furthermore, the insurers receive no rebates or other manufacturer discounts for three-quarters of the drugs used by seniors.

And the third finding was that when insurers do actually get a rebate from the drug companies, rather than passing the savings on to seniors in the form of lower prices, they keep the money for themselves! This year alone, the private insurers will receive \$1 billion in rebates on purchases that seniors pay for out of their own pockets, thanks to the doughnut hole. But beneficiaries continue to pay premiums.

Unpredictability in Part D.—Another problem with Part D as it has been implemented is that stability is lost. Much like with corporate pension scandals, instead of receiving a guaranteed benefit, those enrolled in Medicare Part D only receive a guaranteed bill to pay. Instead of being able to have peace of mind when it comes to whether or not drugs prescribed by a doctor will actually be covered, a state of financial nervousness and uncertainty is par for the course with Medicare Part D. A consumer's Union study found that most insurers raise the cost of their drugs during the year—in one case by 28 percent. The same uncertainty is present in predicting which month beneficiaries will hit the doughnut hole and be forced to pay all your drug costs as if you had no benefit at all.

Clearly, Part D is more of a benefit for the pharmaceutical and insurance industries than retirees and the disabled. The Part D provisions of the Medicare bill alone guaranteed \$139 billion in guaranteed profits for the pharmaceutical industry, which amounts to 61 percent of the total spending in the bill for prescription drugs, according to Boston University School of Public Health. Even so, Part D is not where the real money is. The real money is in the Medicare Advantage, the HMOs, PPOs, PFFSs and other alphabet soup of private plans offered through Medicare as an alternative to traditional Medicare. I'd like to talk a bit about these plans now.

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE

Medicare Advantage plans have been in existence for several years now, but the 2003

Medicare Modernization Act has drastically accelerated privatization. Lets take a look at how the plans have done, starting with how they deal with customers. I'll start with their efforts to sign you up and then we'll see how they treat you after you're already on the plan and are requesting coverage.

Marketing.—An October 7 article in the New York Times conducted their own review of 91 federal audits of privately run Medicare plans—both Medicare Advantage Plans as well as Part D plans. They found that "tens of thousands of Medicare recipients have been victims of deceptive sales tactics." They also found that "since March, Medicare has imposed fines of more than \$770,000 on 11 companies for marketing violations and failure to provide timely notice to beneficiaries about changes in costs and benefits." I want to read you two other quotes from that article to round out the picture. "In July, Medicare terminated its contract with a private plan in Florida after finding that it posed an 'imminent and serious threat' to its 11,000 members." "Medicare officials said that compliance problems occurred most often in two areas: marketing, and the handling of appeals and grievances related to the quality of care." That stands to reason since that is where the profit is made.

Humana is a good case study. Humana, which is the second-largest provider of Medicare Advantage plans, was required to fulfill corrective action plans for 300 different violations. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services or CMS administers Medicare. Their audit results for Humana included findings that marketing agents were not trained or supervised, enrollees were not informed of changes to plan formularies (list of covered drugs), and enrollees were not provided with explanations for claims denials or appeal rights when their claims had been denied. This is the same company that gained 4 million new policy holders and reported to stockholders in April that it had amassed "record-breaking revenues," according to an article in "The Nation." Keep in mind that this company pays its agents a commission five times greater for enrolling individuals into their Medicare Advantage plan than the commission they receive for enrolling them into a stand-alone prescription drug plan. Similar arrangements are true for other leading insurers like United Health Care, Aetna, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield. But why would they do that?

Big insurance companies are quite eager to sign up people for Part D plans. But Part D plans are nothing compared to the profit to be made in Medicare Advantage. So insurers offer low price Part D plans in order to get their foot in the door with those who were on traditional Medicare. Then they aggressively marketed their Medicare Advantage plans, too often using the unscrupulous tactics I just described. Such marketing tactics are especially effective when the plans are so complex, the customer is easily fooled. In Humana's case, the tactics worked. They were a relatively small company before the prescription drug plan and the Medicare Advantage push. But they were able to get 100,000 people to move to Medicare Advantage plans. An insurance consultant said "an additional 100,000 people contributing to top line revenue is not insignificant—it's an extra billion dollars."

Customer Service.—Now that's just the marketing. What do they do when they have you? The New York Times article found that both Medicare Advantage and Part D enrollees "had claims improperly denied by private insurers." Some examples of other problems found include "the improper termination of coverage for people with H.I.V. and AIDS, huge backlogs of claims and complaints, and a failure to answer telephone

calls from consumers, doctors and drug-stores.”

WellPoint, an Indianapolis-based company that covers 360,000 members under Medicare, had a backlog of 354,000 claims under its Medicare plans. Auditors logged an average wait time of 27 minutes to answer enrollee phone calls and a 16-minute wait time to respond to provider calls. Of the more egregious offenses, Sierra Health, based in Las Vegas, wrongfully terminated drug coverage for 2,300 HIV-positive Medicare Advantage enrollees, improperly claiming they had defaulted on plan premiums.

Fewer options, not more.—Medicare Advantage advocates often speak of the greater choice in their plans as opposed to traditional Medicare. I don't think you can have more choice than to be able to choose from any doctor, which is the case with traditional Medicare, but we'll take a look anyway.

As with Part D plans, there are countless stories of beneficiaries seeing changes to their plan midyear, including cost increases, dropping certain drugs from formularies, or doctors dropping out from frustration with the plans. In fact, Medicare Advantage plans talk a lot about their extensive network of doctors but customers frequently find that when try to go to one, the docs won't take Medicare Advantage customers. Many doctors don't like it because of the low pay and because of the insurance industry second-guessing their diagnoses and choices for providing care. Even though all these changes can be made at any time in the enrollment cycle, beneficiaries can only switch plans once per year.

Some argue that Medicare Advantage offers a better quality of care than traditional Medicare. The Congressional Budget Office disagrees, stating “though Medicare Advantage plans cost more than care under the fee-for-service program does, on average, they would be more cost-effective if they delivered a sufficiently higher quality of care . . . The limited [quality] measures available suggest that Medicare Advantage plans are not more cost-effective than the fee-for-service program.”

Those enrolled in Medicare agree, as traditional Medicare beneficiaries are less likely to have problems accessing specialists, according to MedPAC.

Out of pocket costs.—Medicare Advantage insurance companies make money when they shift the costs onto you and me. One of the ways they do that is by providing incomplete insurance or underinsurance. They can offer meager coverage in specific unnoticeable areas that only matter if you get the illness that isn't covered well. Because Medicare Advantage plans are not required to be standardized—meaning different companies are not required to offer the same plan structure and compete only for price—these companies can skew their plans to maximize their profits and decrease benefits. One tragic result is that people in more need of services, especially those in need of physician-administered chemotherapy drugs and dialysis services, pay more under Medicare Advantage than they would under traditional Medicare for less service. Their out-of-pocket costs are unexpectedly and dangerously high. This is one of the biggest health care problems that we don't hear enough about. About half of all bankruptcies in this country are related to medical bills. Of those medical bankruptcies, 75 percent of the people had insurance before they got sick. But because their insurance still allowed them to go bankrupt, it was clearly lacking. Profitable, but lacking.

For those of you that have seen Sicko, the Michael Moore movie about health care, you know that another way insurance companies

make money is to deny benefits, which is done in spades under Medicare Advantage. The Medicare Rights Center who collects many Medicare Advantage complaints told the story of an 80 year old man enrolled in a private Medicare plan called HealthSpring. He had a heart attack and went to the hospital. All of his claims were denied because he didn't get prior authorization from the plan to enter the hospital. His hospital bills now top \$87,000 dollars.

Propping Medicare Advantage up.—You would think that since Medicare Advantage beneficiaries are getting such an inferior product, that it would cost less. It is not so. As with Part D, Medicare Advantage is far more costly than traditional Medicare. Both the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report that for 2007, it costs taxpayers 12 percent more (on average) to cover beneficiaries enrolled in private Medicare Advantage Plans than under traditional Medicare. That is an extra \$149 billion over 10 years. The Chief Medicare Actuary has said that the beneficiary enrolled in traditional Medicare pays an extra \$24 per person this year because of overpayments to Medicare Advantage. This overspending also cuts years off the life of the Medicare trust fund and diverts money away from hospital and acute care services. While the Social Security trust fund can pay 100 percent of benefits until at least the year 2041 without any changes whatsoever, the Medicare Hospital Insurance (or HI) Trust Fund can pay 100 percent of claims only until the year 2019, based on current actuarial assumptions, in large part because of privatization.

Not only is the program inefficient, but it is growing steadily. According to the Congressional Budget Office, 18 percent of current Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. This number is expected to increase to 26 percent by 2017. The biggest growth—about 650 percent since 2005—has been in enrollees in the private fee for service plans which have enjoyed exclusive access to major subsidies from Congress as well as exceptions to standards of quality care. Unfortunately, the fastest growing type of plan is also the least efficient of all Medicare Advantage plans. They cost, on average, 19 percent more than traditional fee for service Medicare. Where does all that money that should go to health care, actually go? MedPAC found that half of the overpayments go directly to profits, marketing, and administrative costs. That's worth repeating. Half of the overpayments go directly to profits, marketing, and administrative costs.

These private fee for service plans aren't the only ones to get corporate welfare. The PPO “stabilization” fund is a slush fund designed to encourage growth of new regional PPOs of 10 billion dollars over 10 years. That's in addition to general subsidies for Medicare Advantage plans. But in 2006, 88 percent of beneficiaries had access to a regional PPO. So subsidies for growth are unnecessary. Even MedPac recommended eliminating the slush fund.

I mentioned earlier that Medicare Advantage Plans are lucrative for insurance companies. UnitedHealthcare will make about 11 percent of its net income for 2007 from Medicare Advantage. That number is 66 percent for Humana. Between 2005 and 2006, when a lot of these subsidies took effect, United and Humana saw increases in revenue of over 50 percent. WellPoint saw an increase of 27 percent. When there is so much money at stake, it is very cost effective to have not only a big marketing push, but also a strong lobbying army to make sure your Congressional subsidies don't go away. That is what they do.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There is a race in the health insurance world to determine who can provide the lowest quality benefits for the highest possible cost that consumers, companies, and the government will accept.

Seniors and disabled individuals who have contributed to Medicare from a lifetime of work deserve to have simple, clearly defined benefits which do not change from month to month, year to year. We should not be paying companies exorbitant administrative costs and overpayments that maximize profit margins in order to put beneficiaries, beneficiaries at risk. All of this is the case with the private Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D, and it should be stopped.

The best, most efficient way to ensure all Medicare beneficiaries will always have real, reliable, and complete benefits is to end private involvement in Medicare. That's why I, along with John Conyers of Michigan, coauthored the Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act, H.R. 676, back in 2003. HR 676 captures the enormous savings to be had if Americans had health care provided through Medicare and uses them to cover everyone for all medically necessary services with no copayments, no deductibles and no premiums. This bill would strengthen Medicare by removing the for-profit interests, decrease the financial burden to beneficiaries, and increase the quality of care—all without the confusing maze that privatized Medicare has become today. There is enough money that America spends in health insurance and health care today to cover everybody. Every year, \$2.2 trillion is spent, and only about 69 cents out of every dollar actually goes to providing health care services. We are all paying for universal health coverage, we just aren't getting it.

Congress will be required to hold hearings on and propose changes to Medicare due to the financial situation of the program which privatization has created. I intend to use this opportunity to emphasize the best, most comprehensive, and most cost efficient way to strengthen benefits for those enrolled in Medicare—H.R. 676.

What's happening in Washington.—Many of you know an early version of a bill to provide health insurance to millions of children through a program called SCHIP, also called for cuts to one of Medicare Advantage slush funds I mentioned earlier. I supported that bill but the insurance industry mounted an expensive and aggressive lobbying campaign that ensured their slush fund stayed in place. Now there is talk of using that slush fund money to pay for maintaining Medicare payments to doctors as opposed to allowing scheduled cuts of about 10 percent to take place.

H.R. 676 now has 85 cosponsors and is the only national health care reform bill that has an entire national movement behind it. There are two national non-profit organizations and several regional organizations devoted to its passage. And it has the official backing of 93 Central Labor Councils, including several Cleveland and Ohio unions as well as cities and states across the nation.

There is the possibility of implementing an interim measure of providing a prescription drug benefit that gets rid of the insurance companies and lets the benefit be administered by Medicare. Doing so would clearly lower costs, increase access and increase quality. But I would like to hear what you think of that idea. Would people be willing to give up their privatized plans for more plans that give greater security and coverage?

And while I'm asking for your input, I'd like to ask you about another related issue that has recently come up. As I understand

it, Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) has announced that it will shift from offering two traditional Medicare plans to offering one traditional Medicare plan and one Medicare Advantage plan. I am concerned about this choice and would like to hear from you about it.

I know you all have been waiting for the opportunity to ask questions and share your comments, so let's transition to that right now.

IN MEMORY OF EARL PATY, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Earl Paty, Jr., of Sheridan, Arkansas, who passed away October 17, 2007, at the age of 76.

Earl Paty, Jr., was a lifelong resident of Grant County where he built a solid foundation of community service that impacted countless lives and will forever be remembered by all who knew him. Whether serving others during his 40-year career at International Paper Co., or through his involvement with numerous local and state organizations, he devoted his lifetime to selflessly giving back to the citizens of Grant County and the State of Arkansas to make the world a better place.

Earl Paty, Jr., was a devout man of faith and a member of Moore's Chapel United Methodist Church. He took great pride in serving the church and congregation on the Administrative Board, as a Sunday School teacher and as a delegate to the Arkansas Annual Conference. He even rose to the level of becoming a certified lay speaker within the United Methodist Church. In addition, he was actively involved with numerous local organizations where he devoted his time and heartfelt energies to others. These included the Grant County Fair Board, the Grant County 4-H Club, the Southeast Arkansas District Development Cooperative and the Sheridan Masonic Lodge.

Perhaps my fondest memories of Earl Paty, Jr., are the many discussions we had over the years about politics, as he well understood how a career in public service could positively affect the lives of thousands. I always admired his fervor for politics which took him up the ladder from chairman of the Grant County Democratic Party to the Executive Director of the Senior Democrats of Arkansas. His contributions to the Democratic Party were recognized in 2003 when he was honored with the distinguished Harold Jinks Democratic Memorial Award. In fact, it was Earl Paty, Jr., who inspired me, through his passion and love of politics and public service, to seek elected office and run for the seat I now hold as U.S. Representative of Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District. For that, I am forever grateful. He was a man I truly looked up to and admired and I am blessed to have been able to call Earl a dear friend.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife of 53 years, Betty Sue Autrey Paty; his children Patricia Knighten, David Paty, and Leslie Tannahill; his two sisters Sue Walker and Faye Welch; and his nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Earl Paty, Jr., will be greatly missed

in Sheridan, Grant County and throughout the state of Arkansas, and I am truly saddened by this loss.

FEDERAL RAILROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2095) to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent railroad fatalities, injuries, and hazardous materials releases, to authorize the Federal Railroad Safety Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2095 the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act of 2007. This bill, introduced by my colleague Chairman JAMES L. OBERSTAR, provides a long-overdue reauthorization and reorganization of the Federal Railroad Administration. I am proud to count myself as a cosponsor of this legislation.

My district of El Paso has a rich history with the railroad industry. Following the arrival of the railroads in 1881, El Paso experienced enormous economic growth due in part to the railroad connections in the area. Today, my city's connections to the industry persist, and hundreds of my constituents go to work in the rail yards and along the tracks every day. Rail workers and the Americans who live near rail operations deserve the highest level of safety, and the Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act provides just that.

Roughly 40 percent of all train accidents are the result of human factors, and, of this startling number, one in four results from fatigue. This bill will set new hours-of-service for our railroad workers and will help ensure they follow proper rest and shift periods. Under the proposed measures, personnel would receive at least 10 hours of rest per 24-hour period and would ultimately be limited to no more than 12 consecutive hours of shift work. The bill would also nearly double the number of rail safety inspection and enforcement staff. These changes would hopefully reduce the number of accidents caused by human error and fatigue and would help ensure safer working conditions for the approximately 1,100 rail workers of El Paso and across the United States.

In addition, H.R. 2095 would reorganize the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and rename it the Federal Railroad Safety Administration (FRSA). Over the 4-year period from 2007 to 2011, the FRSA would authorize \$1.1 billion for general expenses and grant programs. This legislation has taken into account many of the safety investigations and recommendations of the Department of Transportation, especially regarding human fatigue, defective tracks, and railroad crossings. With the reauthorization of this funding, I am confident that great strides will be made to improve the safety of the railroad industry in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this important legislation so that substantial improvements in Federal railroad safety can be made nationwide.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF J. ROY
GABRIEL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and dedication of Mr. J. Roy Gabriel, director of labor affairs for the California Farm Bureau Federation and chief operating officer of the Farm Employers Labor Service. Roy passed away suddenly this month in our Nation's Capital while representing the agricultural community on the issues he found most near and dear to his heart. His service and commitment to California agriculture and his passion and joy for life will be sorely missed.

A native of southern California, Roy attended California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo where he earned a degree in Agricultural Business Management and a technical certificate in crops production. Armed with this knowledge and a love for farming, Roy became active in local politics, honing his negotiating skills. In 1973, he joined the California Farm Bureau as a legislative assistant and began his life long commitment to the betterment of agriculture in California. Recognizing Roy's breadth of experience and political prowess, Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Gabriel in 1998 to serve as chief deputy director of the California Department of Industrial Relations.

Roy's involvement with California farming has spanned 30 years. Throughout his lifetime, he has been a tireless voice in support of the valley's immigrant population. In the eighties, Roy helped more than 50,000 workers apply for legal immigration status under the Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Like me, Roy believed the current agriculture labor shortage to be a crisis and fought to bring attention to the issue and enact reform legislation like AgJobs. The agricultural labor reform movement has lost a great champion in his passing.

We also shared a passion for rail transportation. He was not only an avid historian of nineteenth and twentieth century rail development, but he was respected for his knowledge and opinions on the subject matter. Roy was also an active supporter of today's national high speed and inner-city passenger rail efforts. For all these reasons, we will miss him dearly.

Mr. Gabriel's leadership and dedication will continue to inspire Californians for many years to come. A man of great principle and integrity, his passion and enthusiasm has touched many lives, including my own. It is with fond sadness that I remember and honor the life of my colleague and friend, Mr. J. Roy Gabriel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 22, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 189, H.R. 523, and H. Res. 76.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 983 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 189,

the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 984 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 523, the Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 985 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 762, Supporting the goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall vote Nos. 983 through 985 on October 22, 2007. I was in my district attending a family funeral.

If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 983, H.R. 189, establishing the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the state of New Jersey, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 984, H.R. 523, requiring the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 985, H. Res. 762, supporting the goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, "aye."

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER SPOKANE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC) as they celebrate 25 years of service to the Spokane community. In 1982, local policymakers and citizens joined together to take a stand against the devastation of drugs and violence. Through their efforts, GSSAC now runs programs and collaborative efforts that are empowering our youth, focusing on prevention of substance abuse and violence and solving the problem of meth abuse in our community.

At the core of the GSSAC Prevention Center mission is a desire to equip those in need with the knowledge and skills to make positive choices in their life. They work to unite and support the community through fostering positive attitudes and behaviors. Most of all, they encourage, facilitate, initiate and assist all people, groups and organizations in finding solutions to alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

Over the 25 years that GSSAC has served the greater Spokane community, they have accomplished many milestones. The staff and volunteers of GSSAC give their time and resources through a variety of programs like the Spokane County Meth Action Team, Wash-

ington Drug-Free Youth and Prevention in Practice. They also help to disseminate information about drug abuse and prevention through their Information Clearing House.

GSSAC has become a model of impact an organization can have when they invest in their community. Through the message of prevention, focusing on education, and reducing the stigma of treatment and recovery, they are teaching others that it truly does take community wide involvement to accomplish goals.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the dedicated staff and volunteers of Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council on 25 years of influential service to our community. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending them for continuing on with their vision to make Spokane a safer place to live, and raising awareness on how we can prevent substance abuse in our communities.

CONGRATULATING ALICE EASON BALLANCE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing and congratulating Alice Eason Ballance of Winsor, North Carolina. Mrs. Ballance was recently named as this year's Experience Works Prime Time Award recipient for North Carolina. This national award program honors individuals over the age of 65 who continue to make meaningful contributions in the workplace, and who best reflect the characteristics of leadership, learning, mentoring and contributing to the nation and their local communities.

Mrs. Ballance is highly deserving of this honor after a lifetime centered on helping others, particularly those who need assistance the most. She continues to work hard each day to help the poor and disadvantaged in eastern North Carolina and has realized many successes along the way.

Mrs. Ballance understood the power of voting and mounted a highly successful voter registration drive where she personally taught people to read to enable them to overcome literacy tests. Among her many accomplishments, she has helped displaced sharecroppers find housing, worked to open the welfare system to anyone who needed assistance, and developed poverty and jobs programs.

She has been recognized many times for her selfless efforts, with honors including the Long Leaf Pine Award from former North Carolina Governor James Hunt, a Community Service Award from former President Bill Clinton and the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award for Extraordinary Leadership.

Today, the 88-year-old Mrs. Ballance still works 9 hours each day as the director of Kiddie World—Mary Alice Day Center overseeing the delivery of daycare services to 150 children and 25 adults. She is an energetic inspiration to all who know her. Mrs. Ballance embodies the true spirit of commitment and compassion; she has given all that she can to her community.

The communities in eastern North Carolina are better for Mrs. Ballance's efforts, so it is a great honor for me to recognize the success

and achievements of this outstanding resident of the First Congressional District of North Carolina.

IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM C. POTTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. William C. Potter, director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, CNS, at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, MIIS, for holding the first Nunn-Lugar Chair in Nonproliferation Studies.

The Cooperative Threat Reduction, CTR, Program, commonly referred to as Nunn-Lugar, was created to address the threat against global security resulting from the dissolution of the Soviet Union and loss of control over weapons of mass destruction. Just think what could have happened without Nunn-Lugar—since the program's inception in 1992 nearly 7,000 nuclear warheads and 2,000 missiles have been decommissioned. Nunn-Lugar also provides critical funding for security upgrades and conversion of many former nuclear and biological weapons facilities.

Along with Senators Sam Nunn and RICHARD LUGAR, Dr. Bill Potter has devoted his academic life to nonproliferation issues as the director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Under Dr. Potter's leadership, the center is world renowned as a nexus for nonproliferation education, resources, and policy information. For over 9 years, the center has published The Nonproliferation Review, the leading international journal in the field, and other significant publications on various nonproliferation topics by international experts and practitioners. The center nonproliferation databases and website have become known among analysts, government experts, and the media as reliable sources of objective information on cutting-edge policy issues, as well as a broad range of technological and regime-related questions.

Dr. Potter is a global leader on nonproliferation issues. He has authored or edited 14 books and has contributed chapters and articles in over 90 scholarly books and journals. He has served as a consultant to the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the RAND Corporation. His present research focuses on nuclear terrorism and on proliferation issues involving post-Soviet states. He is a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Council on Foreign Relations and served for 5 years on the U.N. Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Research.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Potter's work on nonproliferation and disarming weapons in the former Soviet Union and locating "loose nukes" has contributed significantly to our global security. I can think of no one more worthy of the honor of the first endowed Nunn-Lugar professorship in the world devoted to nonproliferation study than Dr. William C. Potter. It is my honor to consider Dr. Potter a friend.

IN TRIBUTE TO LOURDES
CASTILLO-URIBE, PRINCIPAL OF
THE YEAR 2007

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a compassionate leader, an educator, and an advocate for children, Ms. Lourdes Castillo-Urbe. Ms. Castillo-Urbe has served as principal at Escuela Vieau School for 15 years. Vieau School serves Head Start through 8th grade children, 96 percent of whom are of Hispanic descent. Ms. Castillo-Urbe achieved a 95 percent attendance rate at Vieau School, even though 69 percent of the students are bussed. Vieau School is the only P-5 DPI program and bilingual school recognized as high achieving by the Milwaukee Public School district.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe prioritizes knowing the students, their families and their challenges such as lack of healthcare and food insecurity. For example, 95 percent of Vieau School students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Ms. Castillo-Urbe knows a positive early school experience strongly influences the future academic success of children in poverty. She sets high expectations for students and teachers and encourages creative thinking from teachers. She instituted the High Scope model for family involvement, providing daily opportunities for parental involvement in the academic and social lives of their children during school hours and after school in their Community Learning Center.

For her commitment to our children and for her many efforts and gifts, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators named Ms. Castillo-Urbe as Principal of the Year from the Milwaukee Public School system for 2007.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe's belief in ongoing professional development for teachers has lead Vieau School to become a training and professional coaching school. Instructional Practice Inventory, IPI, is a new initiative focusing on both high expectations and best practices for teachers. All the classroom teachers at Vieau are guided and mentored by teachers who are trainers and coaches for IPI.

Ms. Castillo Uribe has formed a number of private/public partnerships to provide programs for students. The partnerships include: the Helen Bader Foundation, Medical College of Wisconsin, Alverno College, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, United Migrant Opportunities Services, UMOs, Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, Mexican Fiesta, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and Wisconsin Hispanic Professional Association.

Ms. Castillo-Urbe graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to M. Castillo-Urbe who has dedicated her life toward educating and improving the lives of the children in the Fourth Congressional District and is an outstanding recipient of the Principal of the Year award.

HONORING ALDEN WILSON

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alden Wilson, who announced recently that he will be stepping down as Director of the Maine Arts Commission. Alden has been a fixture in Maine's cultural landscape for over three decades.

Under Alden's leadership, the Maine Arts Commission has become an example for similar commissions in other states to follow. One of the keys to the Commission's success has been Alden's ability to bring together artists, community members, and policy makers to focus on common goals.

The arts are a fundamental building block in our regional economies and are vital to our communities. Serving as director of the Maine Arts Commission for 33 years, Alden focused the group on the cultivation of Maine's creative economy. In large part because of Alden, Maine enjoys a vibrant arts landscape that spreads to every corner of the state.

Alden leaves an organization with a strong vision and a record of success. I have had the joy of working with Alden during my time in the Maine State Legislature, and now, while serving in Washington.

I wish Alden the very best in the future as he pursues new opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
CHARLES ELWOOD "CHUCK"
YEAGER

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Charles Elwood "Chuck" Yeager and the 60th Anniversary of breaking the "Sound Barrier." Both the accomplishment and the man responsible for it serve as lessons in what we can achieve as a nation.

In 1947, when young Captain Yeager raced across the sky faster than the speed of sound, the United States was still new to its role as a world power. The sound barrier represented a principle of nature. By breaking it, Yeager showed the world America's endless potential for innovation.

Yeager's early life prepared him well to become a fighter pilot. Born in Boone County, West Virginia, he grew up hunting and working in his father's repair shop. These skills later served him well as a pilot. At the tender age of 18, Yeager enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

Yeager served as a pilot in England during World War II. On one mission, he was shot down over France. Showing remarkable resilience he evaded capture and returned to Britain to fly. Yeager was never shot down again. He finished the war as a Captain, totaling 12½ kills, including an impressive five in one day.

After the war, he became a test pilot in the Air Corps' Research and Development Program. On October 14, 1947 he was given a chance to break the sound barrier in an X-1 rocket powered jet.

Yeager's flight has grown into legend over the years due in large part to breaking his ribs just days before the flight. Hiding his injuries from his superiors, he needed a rigged broom handle just to close the plane's hatch. Despite the pain, Yeager flew into history, reaching March 1.6, a speed of 700 miles per hour.

It was 6 months before the public was informed of Yeager's achievement. He nonetheless became a hero and was labeled the "fastest man alive." It was a name he did his best to live up to, continuing to fly faster and higher than anyone. Over the course of his career Yeager rose through the ranks, commanding fighter bombing squadrons during the Korean and Vietnam wars and mentoring up and coming pilots at the Aerospace and Research Pilot School.

Chuck Yeager's life of service is a model for all Americans and by breaking the sound barrier he inspired the next generation of heroes to grand achievements of their own, including: the space program and the Moon landing.

Just as was the case in 1947, our Nation today continues to face unprecedented challenges, but we should find strength from this moment in history and from heroes like Chuck Yeager that our nation will continue to break new barriers and reach new heights.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I missed rollcall vote Nos. 983, 984, and 985. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 983, "yes" on rollcall 984, "yes" on rollcall 985. In addition, I want to express my strong support for H.R. 189, legislation introduced by Congressman BILL PASCRELL to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in Paterson, New Jersey. I regret having missed the opportunity to cast a vote in favor of the establishment of this park, which will provide all northern New Jersey residents as well as all Americans continued access to this historic landmark.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT RONALD
PHILLIP ALLEN, JR.

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to LT Ronald Phillip Allen, Jr. of Tar Heel, North Carolina, for serving his community as a dedicated volunteer with the Tar Heel Fire Department. On the morning of September 22, 2006, Lieutenant Allen was tragically killed in an accident with an oncoming car while marking hydrant locations along North Carolina Highway 87.

The American scholar, William Arthur Ward, once said, "Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position, or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service, and character." Lieutenant Allen led such a life.

As a Bible school teacher, Lieutenant Allen shared his faith and the goodness it instilled

within him with the members of his church community. As a firefighter, Lieutenant Allen showed humility through his willingness to sacrifice his safety and well-being for the protection of others. As a correctional officer, he served as a source of character inspiration and guidance for the inmates in his charge. And as the son of a former mayor of Tar Heel, Lieutenant Allen was born into a tradition of public service, a tradition that he would uphold and implement every day of his life.

The life of this remarkable hero was truly one dedicated to helping others and making his community a better place to live. Lieutenant Allen and 82 additional heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty were honored by 5,000 people, including President George Bush and Members of Congress, during the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on October 7, 2007.

Madam Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of Lieutenant Allen. May God continue to bless his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLIE BALDWIN
HOWARD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard, a native and resident of Wilson, North Carolina. For many years, Mrs. Howard dedicated her life to educating and serving the people of Northeastern North Carolina. She was recently honored as the Wilson Human Relations Commission 2007 Paul Lee Stevens Humanitarian for outstanding service to her community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Howard, who is affectionately known as "Bibi," dedicated much of her life as a teacher in the New York City Public School System during her early years, but for the past 15 years she has donated all of her time and energy to rallying youth in Wilson, challenging them to be exemplary citizens and great achievers.

Madam Speaker, high praise is due to Mrs. Howard for her success in overcoming the racial and gender prejudices of her time. Mrs. Bibi Howard was born in Wilson, North Carolina, to Narcissus and Marcellus Sims on March 23, 1916. She overcame countless challenges growing up in the Jim Crow South as the daughter of sharecroppers. Nevertheless, she was driven and focused and graduated as valedictorian from Charles H. Darden High School in 1938. Mrs. Howard attended Hunter College in New York City where she earned both her bachelor and masters degree in education.

She taught for nearly 30 years as a first grade teacher in New York. While there, she worked in the New York City American Negro Theater, which helped start the careers of Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Esther Rolle. There she honed her acting, directing and writing talent, finding a voice through her art. Her Off Broadway play *The Passing of a Dinosaur* is still performed today in local schools.

Upon her retirement, Mrs. Howard returned to Wilson to lead the Christian Education Department of the St. John AME Zion Church. Her enthusiasm for education and the church inspired many of the youth of the community. Along with many other projects, Mrs. Howard founded the Youth Enrichment Program with Dr. JoAnne Woodard in 1989, and focused the program on lasting scholarship, a commitment to the cultural heritage of African Americans, and promoting the arts. Bibi Howard's tireless work to enrich the community inspired Dr. JoAnne Howard to create the one of the first public charter schools in the state, and the only public charter school in Wilson, the Sallie B. Howard School for the Arts & Education. The school, along with the Youth Enrichment Program, has been an invaluable asset to our community.

Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Mrs. Sallie Baldwin Howard's diligent service as an educator and leader, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF
HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH
SCHOOL EAST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students of Half Hollow Hills High School East for their thoughtful letters on the war in Iraq. I appreciated hearing their views and reading their individual letters which contained their ideas and perspectives on our involvement in Iraq.

I want to applaud their interest in this critical topic and appreciate that they took the time to share their opinions with me.

TRIBUTE TO ERIN REED, LOIS
SUZUKI AND STEVE SMITH

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on September 29, 2005, emergency flight nurses Erin Reed, Lois Suzuki and pilot Steve Smith gave their lives when their helicopter lost control in inclement weather conditions after delivering a patient to a nearby hospital. This accident, like many of the increasing number of emergency medical service (EMS) fatal crashes, occurred under so-called "Part 91" regulations, which allow an EMS crew to fly in conditions which are more dangerous than what is permitted when a patient or an organ is on board.

Since her death, Erin's family has joined a coalition of friends and family members who have lost loved ones in a medical flight. Their efforts are devoted to making air medical transports safer for the flight crew and patients who take to the skies for emergency medical care. With the support of this coalition, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation today that will increase safety for all those on board an aircraft providing emergency medical services. This bill will eliminate the Part 91

regulations for certain flights and direct the Federal Aviation Administration to study and implement several other proposals to increase safety conditions for medical flights.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the many families who have responded to their losses with determination to help others. I would particularly like to thank Stacey Friedman, Erin's sister, for her tireless efforts in advocating for changes that would protect caregivers like her sister. By enacting this legislation, we will not only honor the remarkable sacrifices of those who gave their lives while trying to save others, but in their honor we will also prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

RECENTLY INTRODUCED HEALTH
CARE LEGISLATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss three bills I recently introduced that are designed to reduce the number of Americans who do not have access to health insurance. These three bills are designated H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007; H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act of 2007; and H.R. 3517, the Long-Term Care Tax Reduction Act of 2007.

In 2006, approximately 47 million Americans, or 15.8 percent of the population, did not have health insurance coverage for the entire year. When people lack health insurance, they often find themselves lacking real access to health care, thus unnecessarily incur illnesses, emotional and physical pain, and costs. This is particularly the case with preventable or chronic conditions. In addition, when patients cannot pay for health services, the facilities that provide those services suffer financial losses, which have been estimated to be as high as \$41 billion annually. As a result, some health care providers reduce or stop offering services while others may raise rates, thus reducing everyone's access to health care.

The average annual premium for self-only coverage in 2007 is \$4,479 with the average premium for a family of four at \$12,106. These premiums were 7.7 percent over the cost of the previous year's premiums and grew at a rate in excess of both wage gains and the growth in prices for goods and services. Nearly 60 percent of Americans receive health insurance through their employment, primarily because of the advantages available to employers and employees under our Nation's tax code.

To reduce the number of uninsured Americans, we need to help open doors for those who do not receive health insurance through their workplace and do not qualify for public programs. H.R. 3515, the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2007, and H.R. 3516, the Affordable Health Care for Americans Act are both designed to provide this assistance. Specifically, H.R. 3515 would allow eligible individuals a refundable credit against income tax for the purchase of private health insurance and H.R. 3516 would permit individuals to take an above-the-line tax deduction, whether or not they itemize, for all health insurance premiums paid during a tax year.

With regard to long-term care, this challenge currently constitutes a significant component of health care spending in the United States. In fact, of the \$1.56 trillion spent on personal health care services in 2004, over \$194 million or 12.5 percent was spent on long-term care services. Of that amount, nearly \$37 billion was paid out-of-pocket by consumers.

There is no question that long-term care insurance is increasingly becoming a necessity as Americans are living longer. However, the expense of this coverage is a major obstacle to its purchase. Thus, I have introduced H.R. 3517, the Long-Term Care Tax Reduction Act of 2007, which would allow individuals to use their IRAs, as well as 401(k) and 403(b) plans, to purchase qualified long-term insurance using pre-tax dollars without penalty. If enacted, this measure may save the government money in the long run by reducing the more than \$133 billion Medicaid and Medicare spend annually, while allowing Americans to preserve more of their retirement savings and their sense of independence.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to carefully consider these points as they review these three bills. In addition, I ask them to work with me to enact these measures during the 110th Congress.

ON THE DEATH OF RANDALL
FORSBERG

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to mark the passing of my friend Randall Forsberg, but it is with pride, admiration, and thankfulness that I remember her enormous contributions to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Randy Forsberg was the mother of the Nuclear Freeze movement. When she was a doctoral candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980, she put forward a simple and inspired proposal: to end the "testing, production, and deployment" of all nuclear weapons everywhere. With her "Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race," and her tireless advocacy for a nuclear weapons freeze, Randy galvanized a national grassroots campaign to end the threat of nuclear weapons.

I was proud to introduce the very first nuclear freeze resolution in the Congress, and to work for its successful passage on the House floor in the spring of 1983. That vote shocked many within the dusty confines of the foreign policy establishment, who simply could not comprehend that ordinary citizens understood the unique and intolerable threat of nuclear weapons and that the American public would demand a fundamentally different course be set. Randy was at the center of the Nuclear Freeze throughout the country, and was a guiding light to many who believed in the necessity of the Nuclear Freeze. While the Freeze did not pass in the Senate, the activism that this movement created led the Congress to pass other legislation to cut in half the proposed size of the MX missile force, ban anti-satellite weapons testing in space, cut funding for Star Wars missile defenses, and to propose a moratorium on underground nuclear weapons testing. Those Congressional initia-

tives, in turn, led the Reagan Administration—which came to office opposed to arms control—to sign the START and INF treaties with the Soviet Union.

In order to advance a nuclear weapons freeze, Randy founded the Institute for Defense & Disarmament Studies in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1980. Since that time, IDDS has been an important part of the arms control community in the United States and abroad. Through its numerous publications, including its World Arms Database, IDDS has provided vital information and analysis to both policy makers and the public at large.

Randy Forsberg passed away last Friday night, ending a long battle with endometrial cancer during which she had shown incredible bravery and dignity. My thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Katarina Lilly, her mother, Genie Watson, and her sister, Celia Seupel.

With Randy Forsberg's death, the world has lost an eloquent and inspired advocate for nuclear disarmament. But the cause to which she devoted her life endures, and her example serves to inspire others who share her dream of a world without nuclear weapons.

TRIBUTE TO THE KALAMAZOO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Kalamazoo Public Library on the 100th anniversary of its designation as a federal depository.

Since 1907, the Kalamazoo Public Library has safeguarded the public's right to know by accepting, organizing, and maintaining all publications released by the U.S. Federal Government. Furthermore, the Kalamazoo Depository has provided the public of Southwest Michigan with free access to these government documents in an impartial environment along with professional research assistance.

From census records and court rulings to financial aid forms and the federal tax code, the Kalamazoo Depository has become an easily accessible resource for those seeking information relating to the federal government.

As a republic founded upon the ideals of governmental accountability and democratic participation, public access to such information is invaluable. The public's ability to know, question, and participate is the lifeblood of a free and open society such as ours, and not something to be taken for granted.

Once again, I would like to personally recognize and thank the Kalamazoo Public Library and its staff for providing such an invaluable service to the citizens of this community. Southwest Michigan is truly a better place because of their contributions.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am deeply troubled by the high-pitched rhetoric that dominated the recent SCHIP debate. Very unfortunately, the remarks of a few Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle crossed the line between civil discussion and a partisan shouting match. Not only are such comments inappropriate, but they distract from the critical issues facing America today.

I hope that, as the debate on SCHIP moves forward, Congress can move past the political rhetoric and focus on what really matters: helping low-income families who have no other way to afford health care for their kids.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARGARET
KELLEHER REAM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary member of my congressional staff for over 14 years, Anne Ream.

Anne was born Anne Margaret Kelleher on January 23, 1943, in Winthrop, Massachusetts, to William Joseph Kelleher and Elizabeth Tyrrell, affectionately known as Betty.

Anne graduated from Albertus Magnus College in 1964 with a B.A. in Economics and a minor in political science. She then went on to work as a securities research analyst at several stock brokerage firms in New York City and San Francisco between 1964 and 1969; as a portfolio analyst at Wells Fargo Bank between 1969 and 1971, and as a research assistant at Dataquest, Inc. between 1975–1979.

On August 10, 1968, she married the love of her life, Christopher Ream, and they had two beautiful children; Jason born in 1971 and Anita born in 1974. While raising her two young children, she attended the Santa Clara University School of Law, received her Juris Doctor degree in 1983, and was admitted to the California Bar the same year. Anne practiced law at the firm of Auchincloss and Marblestone in Redwood City between 1984 and 1989.

Anne is respected throughout our community as a real leader, volunteering with many organizations and serving as president of the Community Breast Health Project, board member of the Girls Club in East Palo Alto, executive vice president of the Palo Alto Foundation for Education, chair of the Resource Committee for Families in Transition, board chair of the Rachel Austin Foundation, board member and event co-chair for the Association for Senior Day Health, and board member of the Associates of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

Anne is the proud and loving grandmother of Hollister and Jessica Ream, and just welcomed her newest granddaughter, Chloe Pollert.

Since my first day as a Member of Congress in January 1993 until July 2007, Anne Ream has worked effectively to serve the people of the 14th Congressional District, first as a field representative and then as my deputy district chief of staff in our Palo Alto District Office. She applied her years of experience and expertise to bring community leaders together on critical healthcare, women's and senior issues. She assisted hundreds of constituents and resolved complex problems with federal agencies, including Medicare, immigration, Social Security, disability and housing. Her compassion for constituents, especially for the disenfranchised, knew no bounds and she set a standard of excellence in everything she did. Her strong presence in our office will always be missed, as well as her rich sense of humor, her meticulous attention to detail and her endless reserve of knowledge.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Anne Ream as she begins the next exciting chapter of her life. She has served the people of California's 14th Congressional District with grace and distinction and in doing so, she strengthened our community and made our country better. How proud I am of all she accomplished and how grateful I am to have her as my friend.

INDIA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY OUTRAGED OVER "NAZI COLLECTION"

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on September 30, Fox News reported an outrageous story. India has a small Jewish community and they are outraged at the emergence in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) of a new line of bedspreads called the "Nazi Collection." The proprietor, one Kapil Kumar Todi, claimed that it stands for "New Arrival Zone for India," but nobody takes that claim seriously. Mr. Todi pretends not to understand the outrage of the Jewish community, saying "It really does not matter to me who feels bad about it."

This collection is an outrage, not only against Jews, but against all people who believe in decency and tolerance. India should shut it down.

A restaurant in Mumbai used swastikas on its menus and called itself Hitler's Cross. After the Jewish community protested, the restaurant was forced to change its name. This shows the tolerance for Nazi ideas in India, and yet it considers itself the ally of Israel and the Jewish people.

As you know, Madam Speaker, India has been plagued by Hindu fundamentalism and many instances of religious intolerance. Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and others have suffered religious violence that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. There has been destruction and laws have been enacted to prevent a Hindu from converting to another religion. A booklet was published telling people how to implicate Christians and others in false criminal cases. This is merely the latest out-

rage. But it is one more example of the lack of religious freedom in India. That is one reason that there are 17 freedom movements inside India.

This is unacceptable, Madam Speaker. It is one more reason why we should cut off our aid to India and our trade with that country and put the U.S. Congress on record in support of self-determination and freedom for the many nations seeking their freedom from India.

[From Fox News, Sept. 30, 2007]

INDIAN JEWS OUTRAGED OVER "THE NAZI COLLECTION" LINE OF BEDSPREADS

MUMBAI, INDIA—Leaders of India's Jewish community expressed outrage Sunday over a new line of bedspreads called "The Nazi Collection" from a Mumbai-based home furnishing company that used swastikas in its promotional material.

The furnishing dealer said the name stands for "New Arrival Zone for India" and was not meant to be anti-Semitic.

But Jewish groups said they would file a lawsuit against the company.

"This is an enormous insult to Jews and all right-thinking people and must be retracted," said Jonathan Solomon, chairman of the Indian Jewish Federation.

There are about 5,500 Jews living in India, a predominantly Hindu nation of 1.1 billion people.

The bedspread line is not yet on sale, but brochures were handed out in a mall in a northern Mumbai suburb, the Times of India newspaper reported Sunday.

Furnishing dealer Kapil Kumar Todi said he chose the name because "that's what came to my mind," according to the paper.

"It really does not matter to me who feels bad about it," he said.

Some Indians regard Hitler as just another historical figure and have little knowledge about the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were killed during World War II.

The swastika symbol, which was appropriated by the Nazis, was originally an ancient symbol used in Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions, and is still displayed all over India in hopes of bringing luck.

Last year, a restaurant in Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, changed its name from Hitler's Cross after the city's Jewish community protested. The restaurant used swastikas on its signs and menus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on October 10, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on H. Res. 719 (rollcall No. 954), had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO EILEEN SWEENEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to take this time to remember the life of Eileen Marie Sweeney.

Eileen Sweeney, a woman whose life, to a remarkable degree, embodied the reverie of

the American dream, was a great woman of distinction which reflected her grand Irish heritage.

Born on October 5, 1934, Eileen Sweeney was a long-time community activist who devoted many years to the betterment of Washington Heights and Inwood. For many years, she worked for New York State Assembly Members Edward H. Lehner and Herman D. Farrell, Jr., where she was diligent in resolving constituent issues. While in her office or out in the community, any project she took on merited her full and undivided attention.

Eileen contributed her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly. One of countless examples was her membership to Community Board 12 of Manhattan, where she served as a fierce housing and tenant advocate and protector of her beloved community.

In 1976, she was called upon to serve as a Democratic District Leader for the 71st New York State Assembly District and also as a Delegate of the Democratic National Convention in which nominated then Presidential Candidate, President Jimmy Carter.

As she passed away on January 31, 2006, such a benevolent amalgamation of intellect, steadfastness, and vigor as that demonstrated by Eileen Sweeney over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others, will greatly be missed.

This past weekend, on October 20th, 2007, Eileen was memorialized by those that loved and cherished her with the renaming of the Northwest corner of West 207th Street and Broadway in my district. It is our hope that this act will help preserve the memory of this remarkable woman, not only for the benefit of those who knew her but for all who value the promise of America.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYBER-SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about my dad. My dad is 89 years old. He has never owned a credit card. He has never even had a digital telephone. He doesn't have a computer. He doesn't have Internet. He is not interested in any of it. And yet, as removed as he might be from computer technology on a day-to-day basis, as it would appear in his personal life, the truth of the matter is, no one is isolated from high tech today.

His veterans payments, his Social Security payments, his bank transfers, his Medicare, all of this comes to him through computer networks. If anybody messes up those computer networks, my 89-year-old dad will not get the services that he needs. That's why this is so important today.

I am proud that in 2002 Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia, began its Regional Center for Cyber-security Education and Training. This was part of the G-8 Summit which was held in Savannah, Georgia, in 2004, and they played a key role in the law enforcement efforts surrounding the G-8.

Since then, Armstrong Atlantic State University has taken on partners of Washington Group International and Bridgeborn, and they are offering all kinds of computer security training programs, from simulating and modeling to visualization, covert channels, cyber-security and security of networks.

Why is this important? Now, Mr. McCAUL said there are 200 million U.S. citizens connected to the Internet. The number of people with access has increased over 182 percent from 2000 to 2005. In 2006, total non-travel-related spending on the Internet is estimated to be over \$100 billion. That is a 24 percent increase over 2005. In 2005, the FBI has estimated that American businesses lost \$67 billion because of computer crime.

The United States is the location of 40 percent of the known command-and-control servers; and because of that, we are the target of attack after attack. Most of these are executed by botnets, which are a collection of broadband-enabled PCs hijacked during virus and worm attacks and seeded with software that connects back to a server to receive communications from a remote attacker. In other words, the botnets all work together to simultaneously, consistently and constantly attack computer networks, such as the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Department of Energy.

In fact, in America our governmental computers alone get millions of attacks each and every day. It is something that we all should be very concerned about. The United States was the top country of attack origin, making up 33 percent of the worldwide attack activity.

Personal information, for example, on veterans in May 2006 was taken home with a Veterans Administration employee. Approximately 26.5 million veterans had their own personal information compromised simply because one employee took a laptop home. Now 25 years ago that may have required a truckload to carry that many files home. But just think about it, all he did was take a laptop home. And if the employee's house had not been broken into and the laptop stolen, we still might not have known about it. In mid-June of 2006, the Department was spending approximately \$200,000 a day just to operate a call center to explain to veterans how this might affect their service. Of course, there are class action lawsuits that have followed, and there will be a lot more discussion about that.

In September 2000, a 16-year-old young man by the name of Jonathan James, who lived in Florida, hacked into a Pentagon system that monitors threats from nuclear weapons and a NASA system that supports the international space station. This gave him access to over 3,000 government e-mail messages. He was able to illegally access a total of 13 NASA computers and downloaded software which supported the International Space Station's physical environment, including control of the temperature and humidity within the living space.

In February 2001, Gary McKinnon of London took a poorly secured Windows system of NASA and the Pentagon and 12 other military operations and caused almost \$1 million worth of damage by just basically playing around, stealing passwords and deleting files.

We know that in March 2000, Max Ray Butler, a 27-year-old computer expert working as an FBI informant, was indicted on 15 criminal counts for allegedly hacking into the U.S. De-

partment of Defense, NASA, and Air Force computer systems. In 2007, he was once again indicted on charges of identity theft and wire fraud.

The list goes on and on, even to the extent that you have folks in China purposely attacking American systems, including the Pentagon. I will submit some of these for the RECORD, but the list goes on and on. That is why it is very important for us to support this legislation and have Members talking about it and knowledgeable.

If you think about cyber-security now, the cost of it is more than what it is for the illegal drug trade in America. Cyber-crime outstripped illegal drug sales worldwide and analysts estimate online fraud will bring in \$105 billion in 2007. This is a huge problem, but it is kind of a quiet problem and this resolution helps raise its visibility.

Submissions of examples for the RECORD

June 2007: China's army hacked into a computer network at the Pentagon. Computer specialists with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) penetrated an unclassified network used by policy aides to U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates in June, resulting in a weeklong shutdown of the system.

May 2000: Montreal teenage hacker pleaded guilty to illegally penetrating the computer systems of several Canadian and foreign institutions, including NASA, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.

October 2002 to March 2003: Raymond Paul Steigerwalt, 21, infected DOD server with TK worm. The worm exploited well-known vulnerabilities in Microsoft's IIS Web Server to spread across the Internet and install backdoors under the control of hackers onto infected systems.

July 2006: State Department had large-scale computer break-ins worldwide that appeared to target its headquarters and offices dealing with China and North Korea. Hackers stole sensitive U.S. information and passwords and implanted backdoors in unclassified government computers to allow them to return at will.

K.P.S. GILL SHOULD NOT TESTIFY IN AIR INDIA INQUIRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, K.P.S. Gill, the former Director General of Police in Punjab, has requested the opportunity to testify before the Major Commission, which is investigating the 1985 Air India bombing. The request comes in response to the testimony of officials from the Punjab Human Rights Organization who had valuable new information to impart. Mr. Gill should not testify.

Gill was part of the same machinery of Indian repression that led to the bombing. He was responsible for the murders of tens of thousands of Sikhs while he was DGP in Punjab. Mr. Gill was quoted as endorsing extrajudicial killings, saying that they "should happen." These are incidents where the police kill innocent people, then report it as an "encounter" to justify their actions. He was denied passage to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta by every airline because of his terrorism and he had to leave the country immediately after India's field hockey games. He serves as presi-

dent of the Indian Field Hockey Association. Almost 50 Members of Congress wrote to the State Department urging them to deny Mr. Gill a visa. He stands convicted of sexually harassing a high-level female Indian Administrative Service employee. He is not fit to be a witness in any civilized country. He ought to be in prison.

Gill has no information on the Air India incident. Why doesn't the Major Commission call Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew, who wrote the book *Soft Target*, which details the Indian government's involvement in this terrorist act, or former Member of Parliament David Kilgour, who exposed the story of Ryszard Paskowski? Paskowski was a Canadian-Polish double agent who was approached by representatives of the Indian government who asked him to be involved in a second bombing. They said, "the first one worked so well." For that matter, why not just call Mr. Paskowski himself?

Gill's involvement in genocide is well known. Why should the Major Commission accept him as a witness?

GILL SHOULD NOT TESTIFY BEFORE MAJOR COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC, October 3, 2007.—Former Punjab Director General of Police K.P.S. Gill is seeking to testify before the Major Commission, which is investigating the 1985 Air India disaster. His request comes in response to testimony from two officials of the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO.)

Gill should not testify because he is a terrorist," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is responsible for the murders of tens of thousands of Sikhs. Now he is portraying himself as some sort of expert on the Air India bombing. The Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, leads the struggle to liberate Khalistan from India.

Gill was denied passage to the Atlanta Olympics by every airline in 1996 because of his terrorism. He had to be sent to Atlanta in a special train and he was sent out as soon as the hockey game was over. 49 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to the State Department, urging them not to give Gill a visa. In that same year, he was convicted of sexually harassing a senior IAS official. A few years ago when Gill was visiting Belgium, his turban was removed from him by Sikh activists, who then chased him down to his hotel. In 1999, he was quoted as saying that fake encounters "should occur" if they are "necessary." Many innocent people, including a three-year-old child, have been killed in such encounters. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for such killings.

Gill presided over more than 50,000 extrajudicial killings, which were exposed by the PHRO in a study begun by Sardar Jaswant Singh Khaira, who was picked up by the police in September 1995 and murdered in police custody in October of that year. Many of these were secret cremations, in which Sikhs were arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were secretly cremated and declared "unidentified." Their remains were never even given to their families. It was for exposing this brutal policy that Gill's police arrested and murdered Sardar Khaira.

Gill serves as head of the Anti-Terrorist Institute of India, which has so far received \$95 million in taxpayer funding from the government of Canada, and of the Institute for Conflict Management, which has received \$65,000. "It is ironic that Gill heads an antiterrorism institute and he is a terrorist himself," said Dr. Aulakh. "Like most police

officials, he has escaped any consequences of his actions. Gill should be tried for genocide."

Information recently released to Tehelka by the PHRO showed that Talwinder Singh Parmar, the leader of Babbar Khalsa (an organization significantly infiltrated and controlled by the Indian government) had identified Lakhbir Singh Brar (Rode), leader of the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), as the main culprit behind the bombing and as an Indian government agent. A police official, Harmail Singh Chandi, showing documents that were supposed to have been destroyed, reported that Parmar was murdered in police custody. It is clear that Parmar was killed to keep him from talking about Rode's involvement. As a Canadian Security Investigative Service agent who was quoted in Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew's book *Soft Target* said, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

"If Gill can testify, why not call Kashmeri and McAndrew? Former Member of Parliament David Kilgour, who wrote *Betrayal: The Spy That Canada Abandoned*, should also be invited to testify," Dr. Aulakh said. In his book Kilgour reports on a Canadian-Polish double agent named Ryszard Paszkowski, who was approached by representatives of the Indian regime, who asked him to participate in a second bombing because "the first one worked so well." Paszkowski should also be invited to testify.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. According to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"How can anyone accept testimony of the representative of this bloody regime?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "In a free Khalistan, no one would accept those who carry out genocide against the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation or against any other people," he said. "The Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion cannot flourish without political power. We must free Khalistan now."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, on October 22, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on roll-call No. 983-985, had I voted, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO "MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH" ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Mount Calvary Baptist Church as they join together in celebration of their 90th Anniversary. They will be celebrating his very momentous and joyous occasion with a banquet held on October 20th, 2007.

The Mount Calvary has a very rich history that has given it life and longevity for the past 90 years. It all began in the late summer of 1916. Mr. Sterling Grayson Jr. along with two other colleagues, Reverend William Lilly and Reverend Young, sat among each other and through conversation, the idea was born in the mind of Mr. Grayson to plan and organize a Missionary Baptist Church. In September of that year, at Thomas Chapel, located at 91 West 134th Street, the idea of the three men came to fruition.

Mr. Sterling Grayson, Jr., who at the time was a college student, turned over the officiating of the church to his father, Reverend Sterling Grayson, Sr. Through names submitted by the new church congregation and pastor, Reverend Grayson Sr.'s submission of Mount Calvary Baptist Church is chosen and he becomes known as the author of the official name of the church on September 27th, 1917. Mount Calvary continues to flourish at its new location of 231 West 142nd Street in my district.

From its modest beginning, Mount Calvary Baptist Church has emerged as a cornerstone of the community. Under the guidance of Reverend Dr. Adolph Roberts, Jr., Mount Calvary continues to thrive, both in terms of spiritual growth as well as practical improvements. The proud members of the church are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he and the previous pastors have provided during the years.

Reverend Dr. Adolph Roberts, Jr. was installed as pastor of the church in April of 1983. Though he is dedicated to his congregants, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Reverend Dr. Adolph Roberts, Jr. and his wife of 43 years, Victoria, have one son, Anthony and three grandchildren. He is a scholar and a veteran of the Korean War, where he served with the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division.

The 90th Anniversary Worship Service and Celebration Week began on Monday, October 15th, 2007, with the Friendship Baptist Church Family and Pastor James A. Kilgore. On Saturday, October 20th, 2007, there will be an evening of love and appreciation at the Alhambra Ballroom Banquet in my district where Reverend Dr. James Forbes will be the guest speaker. The celebration banquet will include with church services on Sunday, October 21, 2007, with the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Family of Savannah, Georgia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mount Calvary Baptist Church on their historic 90th Anniversary. Their constant dedication, commitment, and spiritual

guidance is worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH HOLLIDAY, MAYOR OF GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, Representative BRAD MILLER of North Carolina and I are pleased to join in this tribute to the Honorable Keith Holliday, who will soon be retiring as Mayor of Greensboro, NC.

Mayor Holliday is a model public servant who served as a member of the Greensboro City Council from 1995 to 1999 and has served as Mayor since 2000. He has distinguished himself nationally, effectively leading Greensboro through major economic and political challenges, through economic redevelopment and through a renaissance of Greensboro's downtown. He has helped position greenways, parks, public art projects and other beautification initiatives on Greensboro's priority agenda and has focused on servicing an ever-expanding, diverse and multi-cultural population.

Mayor Holliday has also been a committed and persuasive advocate for the International Civil Rights Center and Museum. Throughout the world, North Carolina is recognized as the birthplace of the sit-in movement and the International Civil Rights Center and Museum, the site of the original sit-ins, is being renovated and will be opening soon as a lasting tribute to the "Greensboro Four." These four courageous students from North Carolina A&T State University led thousands of students and others who sat down at the F.W. Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, NC, to protest segregation and ultimately changed the human condition and struck a blow for human dignity, equality and justice for all.

We applaud Mayor Holliday as he continues to raise his voice in support of the completion of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum so the city of Greensboro and the citizens of North Carolina and this Nation will always remember this great chapter in American history. We join in thanking Mayor Keith Holliday for his many years of exceptional public service.

BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK, FOUNDER OF SIKH RELIGION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on October 20, Sikhs around the world will celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of the Sikh religion, who was born in 1469. There are about 25 million Sikhs worldwide. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sikhs around the world on this important occasion.

Guru Nanak had a spiritual experience in 1499 while bathing in the Bein river. He received revelations for 3 days, then became a

travelling preacher, preaching a philosophy of inclusion, tolerance, and universalism. "There is neither Hindu nor Muslim," he said, and he used both Hindu and Muslim titles for God. Guru Nanak met with both Hindu and Muslim leaders.

His following continued to grow. He eventually settled in Kartarpur, Punjab.

Guru Nanak taught that humans could approach God directly, that God is a formless, unified being. He taught that we could do this by many means including meditation, purification, spiritual purity, and achieving detachment. He encouraged charity. He taught that caste didn't matter. All that mattered was following the spiritual path. He admonished his followers to oppose tyranny and repression.

The teachings of Guru Nanak and his successors are recorded in the *Adi Granth*, the holy scripture of the Sikh religion, also called the *Guru Granth Sahib*. It is written in Punjabi, the language of the Sikhs, which was not considered acceptable by the other religious leaders of the time, but which shows that God favors no caste or group.

Guru Nanak's birthday is a major occasion for the Sikh Nation and I congratulate Sikhs worldwide on the celebration of his birth, which gave rise to their religion.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG
GASPEREEZ AND LAURIE CONNER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Greg Gasperecz and Ms. Laurie Conner, in anticipation of the joyful event of their marriage on October 26th, 2007. The institution of marriage is one of the most sacred, cherished and effective traditions in society, and I am pleased today to pause and offer my congratulations to Greg, and best wishes to Laurie, as they approach this important milestone in their lives.

Greg and Laurie have been longtime companions and soul-mates, and they both cherish their proud heritage as lifelong residents of New Orleans, Louisiana. Side by side, in steadfast support of one another, they have celebrated the best of times, and weathered the worst of storms, as survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

In September of 2005, Greg and Laurie were each living the American Dream of home ownership, and Laurie owned a rental property as well, all in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans. Although they were both able to evacuate in the days before the storm, they had to leave behind a lifetime of possessions in the homes they loved so much. By the time they were able to return, they found their homes defiantly still standing, but the structures and entire contents, were a total loss. All 3 houses, wiped out in a single day.

In December of 2005, my wife and I decided to celebrate our first wedding anniversary in New Orleans. And we decided to drive from southern West Virginia to southern Louisiana, so that we could better appreciate the storm's damage to the entire region. We went to New Orleans to show our support for the community in some small way, and to personally tell any survivors that we could find, that they had not been forgotten.

It was on that visit that I came to know Greg Gasperecz and Laurie Conner, in what had to be the bleakest period of their lives. They were just beginning to comprehend the totality of their personal loss, and that of their beloved hometown. Yet they spent an entire day and evening, offering us an extended tour of the affected areas, including their homes, and they proudly took us on a tour of the unmistakable French Quarter; which was still proudly vibrant under the dire circumstances that persisted. That day, we stood atop the sandbags that had been dropped 3 months earlier at the breach of the 17th Street Canal, a stream of lake water still slowly spreading into the street below. Greg offered his insight and expertise as he explained the environmental implications of both the cause and the effects of the disaster.

Greg and Laurie had so much to be sad about at that time, but they were still the most charming hosts for which the city could ever hope. I was touched by their pride and compassion, and inspired by their stoic resolve to remain and to rebuild. And 2 years later, rebuild they have. It is my understanding that in the last week, they have finally been able to begin construction on a brand new home, in their same Lakeview neighborhood. And this week, in their beloved French Quarter, they will stand before their loved ones and recite their vows of marriage to one another. Greg and Laurie realize that they have been blessed; to have each other, to have survived this epic disaster, and to have been able to rebuild their home and their lives. They don't take any of that for granted, instead, have chosen to recommit to rebuilding their community, and give back to the city that has given them so much. This is so characteristic of the proud and tough West Virginia work ethic and belief in God.

Madam Speaker, I close my remarks today with congratulations to Greg and Laurie. I ask that you join me in wishing them well, and trust that they will have many happy years together in New Orleans, LA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, due to the recent passing of my mother, I have been absent in Washington since Thursday, October 18 and have missed a number of votes. However, if I had been present, this is how I would have voted on each rollcall:

Rollcall No. 981: On Approving the Journal, "aye".

Rollcall No. 982: Passage, Objections of the President Notwithstanding of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 983: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Parks Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 984: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the Douglas County, Washington, PUD Conveyance Act, "aye".

Rollcall No. 985: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Supporting the Goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week, "aye".

STRONG SUPPORT OF PRIVILEGED
RESOLUTION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this privileged resolution to censure Representative PETE STARK (CA), offered by the Republican Leader. Like many of my colleagues, I was disgusted by the comments of the gentleman from California, Mr. STARK.

Regardless of his personal feelings on the war in Iraq or any other issue before Congress, Mr. STARK's comments were distasteful and not in keeping with the traditions of the House of Representatives. His despicable statements on October 18, 2007 about the Commander in Chief, his colleagues in Congress, and the men and women who are serving our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan should be condemned.

Mr. STARK just doesn't get it. The service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform deserve to be honored and applauded in Congress—not chided and denigrated by his senseless remarks. I found his recent actions on the floor of the House to be extremely disrespectful of our military and our Commander in Chief. We face serious challenges at home and abroad and Mr. STARK should consider the impact of these comments before opening his mouth in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH SELLERS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who rose through the Sheet Metal Worker ranks to become a figurehead and an important contributor to the Sheet Metal Worker community. Joseph Sellers, Jr. is a self-made man who has worked hard to get to where he is today. He began as an apprentice in 1980, and became a journeyman in 1984.

Joseph Sellers, Jr. began his career on the Local 19 Executive Board in 1994. Two years after, he was elected to the position of training coordinator, which he held for 4½ years. He followed this position with the position of business representative, and then was unanimously elected by the Local 19 Executive Board to the office of president and business manager. In June of 2003, he was again unanimously elected to this position. He is currently serving his third term in this office.

During his tenure on the Local 19 Executive Board for the Sheet Metal Workers, Mr. Sellers has held a number of other important positions, and left his mark in each of them. These titles include President of the Pennsylvania State Council of Sheet Metal Workers, President for the Metropolitan Association of Presidents and Business Representatives, President of the Board of Directors for the National Energy Management Institute, Vice President of the Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, and Vice President of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO.

These are only a fraction of the prestigious positions Mr. Sellers has held. He has been an influential leader among all of the Sheet Metal Workers in Philadelphia and beyond. It is no small wonder, then, that he has been selected to receive the esteemed Labor Man of the Year Award for his unparalleled service and dedication to the Sheet Metal Workers community across Pennsylvania. I would like my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph Sellers, Jr., without whom the title of Sheet Metal Worker would not have the same honor.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANN E. EVANS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joann E. Evans, one of my most distinguished constituents, for her service to the people of Philadelphia. Throughout her life, Ms. Evans has demonstrated unwavering loyalty to her community and church. The recipient of numerous rewards, she has held a number of leadership positions that allowed her to better our city.

She has showcased her administrative skills by serving as the Director of Support Services for the Center City Association and the Client Relations Manager for Penn Health Pass Corporation. In her efforts with Philadelphia's Mariama House and the United Negro College Fund, Ms. Evans has worked to advance the city's young adults.

In addition to her involvement in the community, Ms. Evans has furthered her commitment to education through participation in her church. She has worked as a youth minister and retreat leader for parochial schools and religious organizations throughout the Nation. As a contributing writer for The National Catholic Reporter and the Faith Alive Series, Ms. Evans shares this sense of faith and activism with readers.

As a native of Philadelphia, Ms. Evans has made a remarkable contribution to her city. I assure you that her leadership is felt by all members of this community. Once again, I congratulate and thank Ms. Evans for her immeasurable service to this Philadelphia.

HONORING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF SENATOR ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Antonio Reyes Unpingco, a Guam leader whose service as a fourteen term Senator of the Guam Legislature will live in the Hearts of the people of Guam and the people of the Western Pacific region who knew him well. Sadly, Senator Unpingco passed away unexpectedly on October 18, 2007 at the age of 65 years. He leaves behind his wife, Emily Cruz Borja, his children Lisa, Christine, Raymond, Nicole, Noel, Meriza, Carlo, Aaron, Jerome, Daniel, and Paul. He also leaves behind several foster children and 16 grandchildren.

Tony Unpingco was born on April 22, 1942, five months after Guam was invaded by enemy forces on December 8, 1941. He grew up aware of the atrocities endured by his people during the occupation of Guam in World War II and he fought for justice for the suffering of the Chamorro people. As a founding member and Co-Chairman of the Mannengon Memorial Foundation and Chairman of the Fena Massacre Memorial Committee, Tony's record of public service reflects his strong commitment to the pursuit of justice for the Chamorro people. In 2003, he was appointed by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to the Guam War Claims Review Commission, a federal commission which examined the historical record of the occupation and reported to Congress on whether the people of Guam were treated with parity for purposes of war claims. His input and advocacy was vital in the formulation of the Commission's Final Report and its recommendations to Congress.

Tony graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School and attended the University of Guam and the University of Portland before graduating from Portland State University. He began his public service career in 1969 as the head of a Special Task Force charged by the Governor of Guam to automate the Government of Guam payroll system. In 1970, he served as Deputy Director of the Department of Administration of the Government of Guam. Then, in 1971, Tony served as the first Administrator of the Government of Guam Liaison Office in San Francisco.

Tony ran for the office of senator in 1976 and was elected. He served as Chairman of the Committee on General Governmental Operations and Military and Veterans Affairs of the 14th Guam Legislature. His election to the Guam Legislature in 1976 commenced an impressive record of winning election to every subsequent Legislature until his passing. His continuous service in the Legislature was interrupted only by his candidacy for Lieutenant Governor in 1986 and for Governor in 2002.

As a distinguished legislator, Senator Unpingco was selected by his colleagues to serve as Speaker for the 24th, 25th, and 26th Guam Legislatures. During his lengthy career he served as chairman and as a member of numerous committees. Most recently, during the 29th Guam Legislature, he served as the Chairman of the Committee on Tourism, Maritime, Military and Veterans' Affairs. Senator Unpingco also served in the leadership positions of Republican Co-Leader, Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, and the Minority Whip for the Legislature.

Antonio Reyes Unpingco epitomized the noblest meaning of public service. He was a true public servant whose sense of duty and commitment to his people and his community transcended his loyalty to his political party. Among his legislative colleagues and contemporaries, Tony was a respected conciliator, constantly working to bridge contentious issues and to find common ground. Among all who have had the honor to serve with him, he will be remembered as a peacemaker. On the floor of the Guam Legislature, Tony maintained a demeanor of dignity and his statesmanship served as an example to his colleagues when controversial legislation was being considered. He reminded his colleagues that their noblest purpose as elected leaders was to serve the people. For this, he was appreciated and respected in all political circles.

For his ability to bring peace and harmony to the halls of the Legislature, Tony Unpingco will be greatly missed by all the people of Guam.

Understanding the extraordinary commitment to public service of our veterans, Tony Unpingco wholeheartedly supported the needs of those who served our nation in defense of freedom. He worked with the many veterans' service organizations on Guam to ensure that those who served in our Armed Forces received the benefits they deserved. Working directly with these organizations, Tony Unpingco fought to ensure that their voices were heard.

Even above his political zeal, Tony Unpingco was dedicated to his community. A devout Catholic, he was an active member of the Santa Rita Parish Council, its "Mom and Pop" Choir, and the Knights of Columbus. He eagerly supported and participated in church activities and was instrumental in the rebuilding of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. As a devoted family man, Tony dedicated much of his time to his children's school activities. Even after his children had grown and graduated, Tony and Emily continued to commit time and resources to the children of Guam. A loving husband of 42 years, Tony's devotion to his wife, Emily, and her devotion to Tony, made them inseparable. They represented the finest traditions of Chamorro graciousness and hospitality.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of my friend. As my colleague during my years as a Senator in the Guam Legislature, I learned to respect Tony and I valued his opinion and advice on many issues. I found him to be a man of integrity and honesty and, most of all, he was always sincere and always ready with an understanding, warm and friendly smile. Tony will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy of service and his devotion to public service will live on in our people and community forever.

A CELEBRATION OF JUDGE THOMASINE GRAYSON MASON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize a long time friend and fellow South Carolinian Judge Thomasine Grayson Mason.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Judge Mason has been recognized as a Who's Who of American Women, a Who's Who in American Law, and a Who's Who in America. She has served as a public school teacher, a civil service representative during World War II, an attorney for the Department of Justice, one of the first elected females to the South Carolina State Senate, and most recently as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudications and Review in South Carolina.

Throughout her seven decades of service to federal and state government, Judge Mason has earned a reputation as a hard working advocate and community leader. She has participated and continues to participate in numerous organizations at the local and Federal level—often holding positions of leadership.

Our family especially appreciates her friendship as she and my wife, Roxanne, have been

lifelong friends, and she has virtually adopted two of our sons, Alan and Julian, as her own.

On Saturday, we will congratulate Judge Mason on her 89th birthday and thank her for nearly 70 years of public service. She has dedicated her life to serving her country and the people of South Carolina. I applaud my friend Judge Mason on this occasion and wish her the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I was detained in my district and was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Monday, October 22, 2007, for H.R. 189 (rollcall No. 983), H.R. 523 (rollcall No. 984), and H. Res. 762 (rollcall No. 985). Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of these measures.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICES INDUSTRY

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the buoyant U.S. services industry, an unsung American success story that will continue to ensure that our workforce is second to none in the global economy of the future.

Services impact every village, town, city, and State all across this country in nearly every sector of the economy. Just think about the services we all rely on: lawyers, doctors, bankers, insurance agents, accountants, nurses, college professors, restaurant workers, web designers, and software engineers. And there are many more service workers who touch our lives every day.

What is often lost in attention-grabbing headlines is that the United States has run a large trade surplus in services since 1971 with almost 90 percent of the \$72 billion surplus generated by business and professional services.

Services accounted for 77.8 percent of U.S. private sector gross domestic product in 2005, or \$8.5 trillion. The services industry remains the engine of growth in our economy and we must not take our eye off the ball.

The United States is also the world's largest and most competitive exporter of services. We have enjoyed surpluses in the services sector since the 1970s because U.S. companies are exporting a wide range of high-value services around the world that other nations value, like financial services, express package delivery, web hosting, or software design. We are second to none in the services sector against our international competitors. To keep our lead, we need to strive for fair and open markets around the world so that we can sell these services in other countries.

Close to 400 congressional districts have 70 percent or more of their workforce employed in the services industry. By 2012, 19.2 million new services jobs will be created, which would

account for 90 percent of all new job creation, according to the Coalition of Service Industries. This is a phenomenal achievement and clearly where our workforce of the future will come from.

In my home State of Florida and in my congressional district, some 85 percent of all our jobs stem from a wide variety of services. And we're growing. In 2002, there were 5.5 million Floridians involved in services employment. That number grew to 5.9 million by 2005. Between 2004 and 2005, Florida's exports of services grew 13 percent to \$23 billion.

Services are being used in areas that we could hardly dream of just a decade ago. With today's fast-changing technology, services are provided around the globe—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For instance, IBM, one of my constituents which employs nearly 1,200 highly skilled workers at its Boca Raton facility, is providing a host of innovative services from its south Florida hub, such as network services, integrated technology services, and e-business hosting.

To give you an example of the IBM skill set, the company is testing speech translation-based products in my district. One of the products currently undergoing testing is a "speech to speech" voice recognition translator with two-way real-time speech capability. IBM is donating this key technology to the U.S. Government to translate between Iraqi Arabic and English.

A user speaks into the system in one language, their speech is recognized, translated, and spoken in another language using a combination of IBM technologies. They are also donating 1,000 laptops or handheld devices plus 10,000 software licenses to support better communication between the U.S. military, Iraqi citizens, and aid organizations in Iraq. We sincerely appreciate this type of corporate commitment to our community.

Services are making the world more connected, allowing producers, consumers, and everyone in between to communicate and collaborate quickly and easily in every corner of the globe. Our service industries are constantly providing new ways to innovate, both here and abroad, to grow our economy.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the impact and importance of this growing, vital sector to our economy and to keep fair and open markets that service providers need to achieve even greater success in the skills-based knowledge economy of the future.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this effort to override the President's veto of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act.

This legislation would provide health care coverage for 10 million American children, at

a cost of less than \$3.50 a day per child. The State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act is supported by individuals and organizations from across the political and ideological spectrum. It is supported by 81 percent of Americans, the majority of Congress, 43 Governors, and more than 270 organizations, including AARP, American Medical Association, and America's Health Insurance Plans.

The arguments against this bill are at best distorted and at worst flat wrong. This legislation targets low-income children, it utilizes private health insurance, and it is paid for. H.R. 976 is also a bipartisan compromise bill created with cooperation of the House, Senate, health care providers, and consumers. Most importantly, ensuring our children have health care is the right thing to do.

As a mom, it is unconscionable to me to choose not to provide health care for children in need. As a Member of Congress, I am disappointed, but not surprised, that this President has put politics before the health of America's families.

Investing in our children's health care must be a priority. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to override the President's misguided veto of H.R. 976.

CONGRATULATING NEIL ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON MOVING INTO THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today, Neil Armstrong Elementary School in Port Charlotte, Florida is celebrating the first day of school for the second time this year. It is my honor to rise today to congratulate the resilient and determined staff, students, and parents of Neil Armstrong Elementary School as they move into their new permanent school facility.

On August 13, 2004, the school's campus was completely destroyed by Hurricane Charley. Immediately following the Hurricane, the students attended classes on a split shift arrangement at Liberty Elementary School until they moved into a temporary modular school on the grounds of Port Charlotte Middle School.

Today, the students and staff move in to a brand new 112,000 square foot school. The newly completed school has been built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, standards, which is a nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Neil Armstrong Elementary School is named in honor of the first man on the moon, Neil A. Armstrong. A replica of the space suit that he wore on his historic lunar voyage will be displayed in the lobby of the new school.

When Neil Armstrong took that first step on the moon, he understood the importance of his small step and how it represented the determination of mankind. Today, I am pleased to paraphrase Mr. Armstrong in recognizing that the first step on the new campus today represents a giant leap toward recovery from

the ravages of Hurricane Charley in Charlotte County.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish the Neil Armstrong Elementary School community our congratulations and our best wishes for a long and successful future in their new home.

CONGRATULATING MR. RON LEVY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Levy, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1999, Ron has served as President and CEO of SSM Health Care-St. Louis. Prior to that, Ron served with SSM Health Care for 30 years, beginning as a resident at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin in 1976. During his tenure, Ron has served in various capacities at SSM which have included: President of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin; President of SSM St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri, and President of SSM Physicians Organization in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ron's leadership over the years has been invaluable not only to the SSM health care system, but to the community as a whole. In 2005, Ron served as chair of the Missouri Hospital Association. Ron has served as a member of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and since its inception has worked tirelessly to ensure access and coverage for healthcare services for the medically uninsured and underinsured in the greater St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Ron Levy today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 746, providing for consideration of H.R. 3773, the RESTORE Act of 2007. While I support many of the provisions of the underlying bill, I remain concerned that this bill is silent on the issue of carrier liability.

This rule provides no opportunity to amend the bill to address this important issue. In my view that is a mistake, and one which I hope will be dealt with before the legislation is sent to the President for his signature.

The failure of this House to address the issue of carrier liability may have significant long term implications for our future ability to protect our citizens. I encourage my colleagues to consider the incentives the legislation creates and find a constructive way to deal with the carrier liability issue.

Therefore, while I do intend to support the underlying legislation when faced with an up

or down decision later today, I oppose this closed rule, and urge the leadership of both Houses of Congress to work together during the conference process to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this closed rule.

HONORING T.J. LEE ELEMENTARY AND IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERV- ICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to T.J. Lee Elementary and the Irving Independent School District Food Service Department upon receiving the first coveted United States Department of Agriculture Gold School award in the state of Texas.

This honor was bestowed on Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service because of their strong commitment to the nutritional and physical well being of their students. Before an elementary school is granted this prestigious award, a stringent HealthierUS School challenge criteria must be met. Providing USDA nutrition standard school lunches, nutrition education to students, regularly scheduled physical activity and other lunch menu criteria are just a few of the measures required to obtain this recognition.

Fighting obesity in school children in the United States is of utmost importance. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service Department are to be commended for their commitment in improving the health and well being of their students. The leadership they have shown helping students learn healthy eating habits and maintain an active lifestyle is an example to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor T.J. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Department for earning the United States Department of Agriculture Gold Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE "BLACKIE" EVANS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Claude "Blackie" Evans, who passed away on September 28, 2007.

Claude "Blackie" Evans was born on November 11, 1935 in Joplin, Missouri. He moved to Nevada with his wife in 1953. Initially, Blackie worked as a laborer and lathe operator at Titanium Metal Corporation. He then went on to work as a shop steward with the United Steelworkers of America #4856. There he was elected as the president of his local union and the youngest person to ever be elected to that position. After years of involvement and dedication, Blackie became the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO. He served as liaison to the National AFL-CIO, National Labor Relations Board, and 150 affiliated local unions. In 1998,

Blackie reached the pinnacle of his career serving as a member of the General Executive Board of the National AFL-CIO.

Over the years, Blackie was an integral part of our community. His commitment to his community extended beyond his experience with the AFL-CIO. He was a member of the State Mine Safety Advisory Board in 1969, and the State Job Training Board from 1979 to 1982. Additionally, he served on the state of Nevada's Vocation Education Training Board from 1980 to 1983, the State Industrial Insurance System Board of Directors from 1979 to 1993, and the Federal Solar Energy Education Board in 1994.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Blackie Evans. His dedication to his community should serve as an example to us all. I send my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. His passing is a tremendous loss to Nevada.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER DANNY PHILLIP DIETZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and NAVY SEAL from my district, Petty Officer Danny Phillip Dietz of Littleton, Colorado. Petty Officer Dietz was killed two years ago during combat operations in Afghanistan.

On June 27, 2005, Petty Officer Dietz's four-man SEAL team was inserted into Afghanistan's remote Hindu Kush Mountains. His comrades included Petty Officer Matthew Gene Axelson of Cupertino, California, Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell of Huntsville, Texas, and Lieutenant Michael Murphy of Patchogue, New York. In the heavy fighting that followed the four men, experts not only in warfare but friends and members of a close-knit team, all faced the enemy opposition with inspiring valor and determination. Together they faced incredible odds, determined not only to do their duty but to give all that they had, each in the defense of the others. Ultimately overwhelmed, only Petty Officer Luttrell survived, and then with grievous wounds, to be rescued after several days of escape and evasion during which he continued to battle the enemy.

As Navy SEALs these four men exemplify the very best of America's young men and women, many of whom continue the battle on foreign shores or serve at home to protect our homeland. As valiant warriors they serve to inspire us in understanding not only the importance of Duty, Honor, Country, but also the importance of the unity of teamwork against all odds, regardless of our differences or where we are from.

Danny Dietz is not forgotten in his home town of Littleton, Colorado. This year on Independence Day, a large bronze statue was unveiled in Littleton's Berry Park to ensure that future generations will never forget his uncommon valor and selfless sacrifice. The citation awarding him the Navy Cross notes: "Demonstrating exceptional resolve and fully understanding the gravity of the situation and his responsibility to his teammates, Petty Officer Dietz fought valiantly against the numerically superior and positionally advantaged enemy

force. Remaining behind in a hailstorm of enemy fire, Petty Officer Dietz was wounded by enemy fire. Despite his injuries, he bravely fought on, valiantly defending his teammates and himself in a harrowing gunfight, until he was mortally wounded."

Second only to the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross is the Navy's highest award for military heroism. Since it was established in World War I it has only been awarded 6,923 times to members of the Armed Services and to only 4,544 members of the U.S. Navy. To date, in the Global War on Terrorism, 17 Marines and 6 members of the Navy have received the Navy Cross. Three of those Navy awards went to Petty Officers Dietz, Axelson, and Luttrell.

In addition to the 3 Navy Crosses and 4 Purple Hearts awarded to the four men in a single action, Lieutenant Murphy was also posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. I hope that all Americans will take the time to reflect on the sacrifices of these brave men—and indeed all of those serving our Country around the world.

HONORING OLIVIA HARRINGTON RETIREMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Olivia Harrington upon her retirement for her volunteer work and community involvement in Duncanville, Texas.

Mrs. Harrington has been working with youth and volunteers for 25 years. She was the YW Teen Director for the YWCA for 13 years and also created and served as the Duncanville Teen Court Volunteer Coordinator for 12 years. Teen Court allows teens, who have committed Class C misdemeanors, to be judged by their peers in an authentic court setting with actual sentences being handed out. Teen volunteers serve as attorneys, clerks, bailiffs and jurors. Many students have contributed their success in adulthood to the lessons they learned from Mrs. Harrington's guidance participating in Teen Court.

Besides Teen Court Coordinator, Mrs. Harrington is involved in other numerous volunteer organizations. She's a charter member of Theta Pi Chapter, Epsilon Sigma Alpha service fraternity, the Duncanville Genealogy Club, the Ellis County Genealogy Society, and the Duncanville Book Review Club. In addition, Mrs. Harrington is a life member of the Ellis County Art Association, the Historic

Waxahachie Inc. and United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Harrington has been recognized for her achievements when the Duncanville Teen Court received the TICA Spotlight Achievement Award for outstanding Teen Court in Texas in 2001. She was also honored by the Duncanville High School naming the Olivia Harrington Outstanding Volunteer Award for her in 2005.

Mrs. Harrington has a husband, Fred, and two beautiful daughters, Angie and Teenya.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Olivia Harrington for her community activism which has enriched the lives of so many in Duncanville, Texas. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRES

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Over the past two days wildfires have exploded across Southern California, causing loss of life, and tens of thousands of acres of property and forest damage in San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and Orange Counties.

In the Inland Empire, fires have burned many acres of land across the northern part of my district in Lytle Creek, 300 acres in the Sierra Lakes neighborhood of North Fontana and 160 acres in Ontario. Thankfully those fires have now been fully contained and no homes have been reported damaged.

Unfortunately, there are currently more than 5,000 acres of land still being consumed by fires in the Mountain communities adjacent to my district. At last report, more than 136 homes have been destroyed and evacuations continue in this area. Schools in San Bernardino, Fontana and Ontario have all been closed. Children and families, friends, and even some of my staff have been affected.

Evacuees are receiving shelter at the National Orange Show which is down the street from my district office in San Bernardino. At last count there were around 1,800 evacuees being housed there. Unfortunately we are hearing reports that not everyone affected by this disaster is receiving shelter. The center is being administered by the American Red Cross but they are only accommodating evac-

uees from designated evacuation areas. Those that are homeless and victims that are evacuating themselves from non-designated areas filled with smoke are not being serviced. We should not allow self-imposed regulations to prevent service to people that are in need. We must serve all residents, including homeless individuals, regardless of identification or citizenship status.

All told, an estimated 350 homes will have been destroyed by these devastating fires. This means there are going to be many homeless families that will need food and shelter. In addition, we fear that our hospitals will see an influx of people with respiratory problems.

The Inland Empire is a major railway and highway transportation hub but these fires have practically shut down access to many affected communities by closing down Highway 330 and HWY 18 leaving only one road, HWY 38 available for vehicles to go up and down the mountain. We need help containing these fires so that rescue and recovery personnel can get to these communities.

The San Bernardino County's Department of Public Health has issued an air quality warning because of high soot levels in the air caused by the fires and the high winds. Inhaling these dangerous chemicals will undoubtedly create respiratory problems for many of our residents. I hope the American Red Cross and other federal assistance is available to our local first responders to ensure the public health needs of all affected individuals are met.

I thank President Bush for his quick response in declaring a state of emergency in the areas affected by the wildfires. In a letter sent earlier today, I asked that he gives all federal support possible, including personnel, equipment, and funding, necessary for a speedy recovery.

I also thank the brave men and women on the ground, who continue to fight the wildfires and evacuate those in harm's way. Throughout the day, I will be meeting with individuals from the U.S. Forest Service to remain as informed as possible on the coordination of federal and local activities. We are working to determine the best possible course of action to prevent further spread of the wildfires, and determine what future steps must be taken to ensure a quick and full recovery for those individuals and families whose lives are affected.

As Chair of the Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry I plan to hold hearings to explore what lessons we can learn from these fires to be better prepared in the future and what steps we must take from here to ensure the fastest recovery possible.